

Garnet Valley, PA – For the past year, Congressman Sestak (PA-07) has been investigating various issues relating to postal service in the 7th Congressional District. He has worked closely with the United States Postal Service to resolve a wide-range of concerns, including assignment of zip codes, timeliness of service and location of post offices in the greater Garnet Valley region. These issues were brought to the attention of senior United States Postal Service officials both in Washington and in the Philadelphia region, and the Congressman has met three times with public groups over the last five months to keep them apprised. — On Sunday, February 17, Congressman Sestak held a town hall meeting at the Darlington Fine Arts Center to further update interested citizens on post office issues affecting their region.

Congressman Sestak used the time to make two key announcements regarding his efforts in Garnet Valley and Concordville. He announced that after working closely with USPS District Manager Frank Neri, a proposal discussing the potential to create a new zip code for the Garnet Valley portion of 19061 will be sent to the U.S. Postmaster General. Once the proposal is sent, the Congressman will then advocate the proposal in Washington. These efforts are being done in response to constituent feedback and the recognition of the area's growth, especially with the addition of several new senior communities, and despite the fact that currently the 19061 zip code falls short of the number of delivery locations normally required to consider a new zip code.

Congressman Sestak also shared that efforts to re-establish a post office in the Concordville area are proceeding. The USPS is currently in negotiations with a local retailer to host a contract post facility at their retail location. This facility will include normal post office services, which should include post office boxes. A decision is expected by the end of February.

The Congressman again iterated that he has gotten the USPS to agree to track township-wide mail delivery by Concord Township to determine if mail service is slow for any sections of Concord Township. After the tracking has occurred, if a problem is detected, the USPS will take the necessary steps to correct it. Last year, Congressman Sestak provided Concord Township with the contact information for the senior USPS official who will be doing the tracking. That same official was in attendance at the town hall at the Congressman's bequest to answer questions from attending constituents

This town hall meeting represents the fourth meeting speaking to groups of concerned citizens that the Congressman has held with regard to these post office issues. He held meetings on October 13, where he met with more than 100 residents at the Garnet Valley Middle School. On October 19, he met with representative of the Belmont, Fox Field and Riviera and Concord communities. Most recently, he held a Congress on Your Corner event at the Rachel Kohl Community Library on January 26, where community issues, specifically those related to the post offices, were discussed.

The Congressman promised to keep constituents informed as these efforts develop and provide detailed minutes of the event to all those who have contacted them with their concerns.

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the Congress.